

1. Seattle faces many challenges associated with rapid growth. What are your top 3 priorities for the city and why? (500 word limit)

I am running for Mayor because this city is at a crossroads. In too many ways, for too many people, our incredible economic success is creating two Seattles. Many are succeeding but too many people are being locked out and cannot keep up with rising costs. The price of that first home keeps climbing and rents aren't any better. The costs of living and raising a family here dwarf the rise in most wages. And too many people are living in tents, doorways and cars.

Three top priorities are homelessness, affordability and police reform, and, at the same time, these big challenges will not divert us from sweating the "little things." As Mayor, I will be relentlessly focused on the basics to make sure taxpayers get what they pay for.

Homelessness. We must find ways to move people off the streets and out of cars and RVs and into homes. This is a complicated problem with many causes; that means we have to look at a number of solutions. Above all else, homeless families and individuals need a safe and stable home. Removing barriers to permanent housing requires not just shelter alternatives, but also requires tackling a variety of challenges, including employment, stable schooling for kids, and addiction and mental health services. I am committed to smartly directing city resources while working with service providers, caring philanthropists, communities, individuals and businesses dedicated to finding solutions.

Affordability. One of the most critical issues facing Seattle is the lack of affordable housing supply. This problem will only grow as our population grows. I will look to leverage City and regional tools and partnerships to help meet this need. I strongly support the implementation of the MHA HALA recommendations to obtain more affordable housing. I will focus on the "highest impact recommendations" first as identified by HALA. We will also need to get or employ other solutions and tools, like public housing and property tax relief for affordable housing.

Police reform and accountability. The last few years, we saw too many cities erupt around these issues. Seattle is now a national model for police reform, particularly in the areas of crisis intervention. Our police all have been trained in national leading crisis intervention practices. Seattle officers can police effectively with respect for civil rights. This has saved lives, is making a difference on the streets, and has improved the relations between the community and the officers that serve them. As a driving force for police reform in Seattle, I am committed to continuing the progress we have made.

2. Most of the world only knows Seattle as the Space Needle, Sleepless in Seattle, or the Seahawks. What will Seattle be known for on the world stage in 20 years? (500 word limit)

Well, the Seahawks are pretty great.

We are the city that gave you coffee on every street corner, the everything store on your phone, bone marrow transplants that cure cancers, computers and airplanes that unlock the world, and the ability to buy four gallons of mayonnaise in one tub. In 20 years, Seattle must remain – and be known worldwide as – a hub of innovation that nurtures and attracts top talent.

We will also be known as the city that got it right – by growing smartly and densely, welcoming and embracing diversity, educating our residents well, and addressing income inequality and affordability.

Our current economic growth gives us the opportunity to invent the future on our terms – showing the nation what it means to be an engine of innovation, to build an inclusive economy, to support workers in the 21st century, to police effectively with respect for civil rights, to tackle homelessness with compassion and smarts, and to spend less time sitting in traffic with smarter and more accessible transportation alternatives that work for all.

I will make one bold prediction: our world-class computing capabilities coupled with the research happening in our city will make Seattle the place known for curing cancer.

3. Seattle is seen as a progressive city. How have other progressive cities created successful partnerships with employers? How do you see that playing out in Seattle? (500 word limit)

The City plays a critical role in supporting business growth and economic development and needs to have an active partner to understand how best to fulfill that role. One of the keys to any successful partnership is good listening. I look forward to building a City that listens to our innovators, our entrepreneurs, their employees and business leaders to ensure that our City works for all its citizens.

I am proud of our progressive history. Our dynamism, inclusion and commitment to shared prosperity all work together to make our City one of the most interesting and successful regions on the planet. It is the reason that so many talented and innovative people want to live here, work here and raise their families here. It fuels the spirit of promise and optimism that energizes our businesses.

Ensuring our City has clear rules and regulations for business to follow is key to allowing businesses to have predictability. In the past, the City has played a role in preserving and growing economic clusters, including around high-tech, aerospace, manufacturing, life sciences, high-tech startups, maritime and tourism. That must continue. Together, we have significant opportunities to build upon our existing strengths and draw new talent and ideas to our region.

We must also have strong infrastructure (roads, transit, broadband), a strong education system (K-12, higher education, apprenticeship programs, career training), smart land-use and taxation policies, and a laser-like focus on the basics necessary for a well-run and highly-functioning city. The reality today is that other cities, states and countries are competing hard to attract businesses. We must continue to be the place companies and their workers want to be.

We should explore opportunities to build partnership between the public and private sectors around programs like apprenticeships – to support historically disadvantaged communities entering the workforce.

4. Seattle has a booming economy, in large part driven by the tech sector. This creates opportunity and challenges. In your view, what is the role of the tech industry as a partner in creating a better city as we grow? (500 word limit)

In addition to the dramatic impact that the tech sector has had on our local economy and the impressive number of jobs it has created, technology has increased connections among people and unleashed human potential. Just as technology has changed virtually every aspect of our lives, it is also changing virtually everything about how our City serves its citizens. The industry that drives that innovation will continue to be critical to our economic success and our well-being as a community.

We need your ideas about how to streamline services and identify community needs. We will draw on your best thinking for how to manage and utilize the information we have and develop better ways to make that data available. Together, we must work to make the benefits of technology innovations broadly available throughout our community and effectively utilized throughout City programs.

The challenges we face as a city are the counter-balance to our prosperity. We must ensure that our success is broadly shared, that every child in Seattle is supported enough to realize their potential, and that we address public safety, homelessness and income inequality. The tech sector is a critical partner in these efforts both in your role as employers and entrepreneurs but also in the application of your innovations to our most pressing problems.

We need smarter approaches to mobility, both public transit and private transportation. We need more diverse training options so that workers can bring their talents to bear on the cutting edge of innovation. We need a K12 system that works for every student and that prepares them to join teams of innovators who are designing solutions to problems we have not yet envisioned. We need a government that works more efficiently and is more accessible to citizens, that provides the same convenience and flexibility that they enjoy in the marketplace, that meets people where they are.

We need to be able to innovate quickly, to learn from others, to solve problems collaboratively, to engage broadly and to scale solutions efficiently. The tech sector has a long track record of proven success with these capabilities. I look forward to working with you to engage those skills for the benefit of our City.

5. What is the number one challenge facing the tech industry - and what do you see as the City's primary role in helping solve that dilemma? (500 word limit)

I will not presume to speak for the tech industry. But when I talk with technology leaders what I hear over and over again is that we as a region need to be better at recruiting and retaining the talent needed to continue our success.

Because the City does not oversee the K-12 or post-secondary systems, its role is mainly to help facilitate discussion, engage the tech community and other employers, coordinate with the educational systems, work with private philanthropy and others who are collectively focused on improving the pipelines for talent and pathways for opportunity.

The City can help create an operating environment in which venture capital can help reach to

new and diverse communities of entrepreneurs and in which those with a vision and energy can deploy solutions to common problems.

The City must devise strategies to improve mobility and address our transportation challenges, respond to our growing affordability gap and homelessness, ensure that the public feels safe and that our community feels welcoming to all. By supporting the core values that make this City thrive, we can maintain and enhance our global competitiveness for tech and the other sectors that make this city so vibrant.

If elected, I also will use my role as Mayor – and the first female Mayor in 100 years – to push for more women and girls pursuing tech careers, for more women in leadership and board positions, and for policies that help support and foster women in the workplace.

6. What is the appropriate role of a city in helping to solve the challenge of portable benefits in a gig economy? (500 word limit)

The nature of work is changing. We see it all around us. More people are earning their living through non-traditional employment models than ever before. Seattle must continue to be a place that is not only hospitable to these innovations, but helps to foster them. We must remain consistent with our values as a community to ensure that the benefits of our prosperity are felt by everyone and that no one is left behind.

While how people work continues to evolve, we will continue to have employees and employers who operate more traditionally. We will continue to support them as well.

Encouraging innovation while supporting traditional employment structures at the same time is complicated, but it is a challenge that our City has and must continue to step up to. We need to create an environment where organized labor, immigrant communities, social service organizations, employers, educators and families can work on these nuanced issues. We need to approach these changes as we have so many others in our past: with a commitment to our progressive values, with creativity and ingenuity and with a firm belief that anything is possible in Seattle. I am committed to working together to explore, design and implement pilot programs for new forms of worker power and support here in Seattle.

We must a place that encourages experimentation in new modes of working together while ensuring everyone has access to quality and affordable health care, sick time to take care of themselves and their loved ones, quality time to spend with a newborn or adopted child and an opportunity to save for a retirement with dignity.

Regardless of how any worker earns their income, their work has value beyond their paycheck and the benefits that allow that worker to live healthy, secure and productive lives should be available. Seattle will remain a place that encourages innovations in this area, while remaining true to our values as a community.